

Blog

Summary

Listed by:

Date 6

December 2009

November 2009

October 2009

September 2009

August 2009

July 2009

June 2009

May 2009

April 2009

March 2009

February 2009

January 2009

December 2008

November 2008

October 2008

September 2008

August 2008

July 2008

June 2008

May 2008

April 2008

March 2008

February 2008

January 2008

December 2007

November 2007

October 2007

September 2007

April 27

Grass Cuts 3 times vs 10 inches

During past study sessions, the city council discussed how to trim expenses to meet the projected 5 million dollar budget shortfall. One such method was to reduce the number of minimum grass cuts on certain city property from 6 cuts to 3 cuts per growing season. I wonder if the city can save money by not cutting grass as often would some residential owners of large lots also be allowed to reduce the number of cuts on portions of their property? To get an answer I just sent the city council members the following email. If they represent us, I would expect an answer since the principle of whether the City of Troy has to follow the rules that are applied to businesses and residents is a fundamental one. If the City is exempt, why is it?

To all members of City Council,

During your budget cut discussions, it seems you have agreed to reduce minimum grass cuts on selected city parcels or portions of them from 6 to 3 during the growing season. We all know that in a normal growing season, to keep grass from exceeding 10 inches, it takes more than 6 cuts. Since the city follows all the rules that the residents of Troy follow, can you explain to me what city owned parcels or portions of a parcel will not be cut when the grass exceeds 10 inches as long as they are cut a minimum of 3 times in the growing season? I ask that simply to better understand what portions or a parcel do not have to be cut when the grass height exceeds 10 inches except for a minimum number of cuts? If no such exemption exists, who does a resident call when city owned property has grass that exceeds 10 inches and how long after being notified will the city remedy the situation? As an example, last year the grass exceeded 3 feet on the city owned parcel on Square Lake Rd (South of Kensington Church and West of the Romanian Orthodox Church) before it was cut and the house on the parcel was demolished.

I ask these questions since grass height regulations are for Health, Safety or Welfare reasons and we are reducing the number of minimum cuts for financial reasons (I guess that comes under Welfare), would those areas that the city says only has to be cut a minimum of 3 times in the growing season also apply for similar situated residential parcels? Years ago, the city applied the maximum grass heights only to the frontage, side yards and back yard for a given distance. Grass outside those areas did not have to comply with the 10-inch rule but had to comply with a minimum cut rule. That language does not exist today or does it? I could not find it. The last time I remember reading that code as I just described was in the late 80's.

Please provide me with the answers to these questions. I might have just misunderstood the discussion on grass cuts, but if you have not reduced the number of minimum cuts, you can still answer the question concerning 10 inches vs. minimum cuts.

I keep hearing talk about Good Governance and Bad Governance from the city council table as well as reading quotes from council members on this subject in the newspapers. One of the basic principles of Good Governance for governmental units is Following the Rule of Law. We know that our Federal Government doesn't know the meaning of Following the Rule of Law, do you? Your individual answers to my questions will shed some light on that subject.

Respectfully,

Victor Lenivov

2:28 AM | [Add a comment](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Blog it](#) | [City of Troy](#)

April 24

Update on Red

This past Monday I was able to talk to Red on the phone. He is still at the nursing home doing rehabilitation. The fire in his voice was gone. He spoke slowly and we discussed how he was doing. He talked about his rehabilitation routine. I could sense he was tired and he ended the conversation after only a few minutes. Unlike the Red of old where we would talk for an hour, this conversation was short and limited. Hopefully as he recovers from this latest mishap, Red will become more of the fiery Red of Old. But even as I get older, I notice that I am also losing a step or two. I have his number but I know that Red has trouble working his cell phone. I will call him every few weeks and hopefully will be able to get him on his cell phone. Till then.

4:51 PM | [Add a comment](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Blog it](#)

April 11

Update on Red

Recently, I have been wondering about Red. I should have been maintaining contact even though getting him on the phone was difficult. These past few weeks, people have called, emailed and asked me in person how is Red doing? I had no answer. Today, I called his daughter's house and spoke with his son-in-law. Red is doing fine except that this past week he had an accident and broke his hip. They fixed it and he may spend a few weeks in a nursing home until it heals properly. I have his son's new phone number with whom he is staying and left a voice mail for him to call me. Hopefully I hear back from him in the next few days. If not, I will followup. After I get the chance to talk with Red, I'll post an update. His son-in-law did tell me some stories of how Red has been behaving or should I say Miss-behaving. That is the old Red I know, trying to do it his way and you can't tell him otherwise.

10:08 PM | [Add a comment](#) | [Permalink](#) | [Blog it](#) | [City of Troy](#)